

REMARKS

In the Action, paper no. 7, the drawings were objected to as lacking clarity. The Applicant submits formal drawings, which have been rendered to provide a clear disclosure of the invention. No new matter has been added.

The drawings were also objected to as using reference numerals to indicate more than one element, i.e., 103, 105, 107, 109 and 112. Proposed drawing corrections are submitted herewith which label the elements on the second yoke (104) as 103', 105', 107', 109' and 112'. The formal drawings referred to in the above paragraph incorporate the proposed drawing corrections.

The Applicant also hereby submits corrections to the specification to correct typographical errors to satisfy paragraph 6 of the Action. No new matter has been added. With respect to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Action, the section of the specification which used trademarked references has been removed, and the specification has been amended to remove the footnotes (8a), the use of the word "imagine" (8b), and lines 2-4 of page 5. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's careful consideration of the application. The specification has been further amended for clarification.

The claims (1-4) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as having inadequate disclosure of the best mode of the invention. Applicant again apologizes. The Applicant requests that the Examiner enter the formal drawings submitted with the proposed corrections suggested (as well as other corrections). The submitted drawings do not add new matter and have been carefully prepared by only removing unnecessary overlying lines. If necessary, Applicant urges that the Examiner consider the submission of these drawings a petition to accept substitute drawings. However, it is believed that, there is no substantive difference in the formal drawings compared to the original drawing and that they should be accepted without prejudice.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by (U.S. Patent No. 3,204,428 to Stokely ("Stokely")). Claim 3 has been canceled. In order to anticipate the present claims, Stokely must show each and every limitation of the present claims. However as the following establishes, Stokely does not, and, accordingly the rejection is improper.

The present invention in its broadest form is a device for coupling two shafts and which permits a restricted swing of a predetermined amount of an output shaft relative to an input shaft. The device includes a first yoke attached to a driving shaft and a second yoke attached to a driven shaft. Each yoke includes a pair of tines pivotally attached to a universal joint cross, sometimes referred to a shaft and trunnion arrangement. A first restricted swing mechanism is 1) positioned within the tines of the first yoke and sized and shaped to approximate an inner yoke surface of the first yoke and is 2) pivotally attached to the tine ends of the second yoke. A second restricted swing mechanism is likewise configured and attached identically to the other yoke. (Claims 1, 2, and 3) Claim 2 includes the further limitation of a respective fastener attached to the tines of each yoke, and a restricted swing mechanism being pivotally attached about each fastener.

In contrast, Stokely has rotary input and output shafts, each having a pair of arms. Each pair of arms includes a tie means (G) which is an elongated bar (50) having an elongate rectangular cross section. Each positive tie means "extends between opposed arms of each yoke and are adapted to provide a lock for maintaining a predetermined spaced relation between the forked portion arms even during high speed operation." (Column 3, lines 3-7)

Stokely does not show, as is required in the present claim, a restricted swing mechanism pivotally attached to the tines of the yoke to which it is attached, because the tie-means is affixed in place by connector 52. Nor does Stokely show, as is required in Claim 1 of the present application that each internal restricted swing mechanism is sized and shaped to approximate the inner yoke surface of the yoke to which it is not attached, because the tie-means of Stokely is rectangular and inner yoke surface is arcuate. Furthermore, the tie-means of Stokely is "provided to prevent the forked portion arms (sic) from deflecting under centrifugal forces..." (Column 4, lines 11-13) and is not shaped or positioned to contact an inner surface of any yoke surface. Instead, looking to FIG. 1, it is apparent that the tie-means will contact the trunnion at a position illustrated in the figure below by added arrow "T" when the joint is deflected. Therefore, the tie-means of Stokely is not the same structure, nor does it perform the same function as the internal restricted swing mechanism of the present invention. Accordingly, because

Stokely lacks (at least) the internal restricted swing mechanism of the present invention, it cannot anticipate Claim 1 or 2 or Claim 4, which now depends from Claim 1.

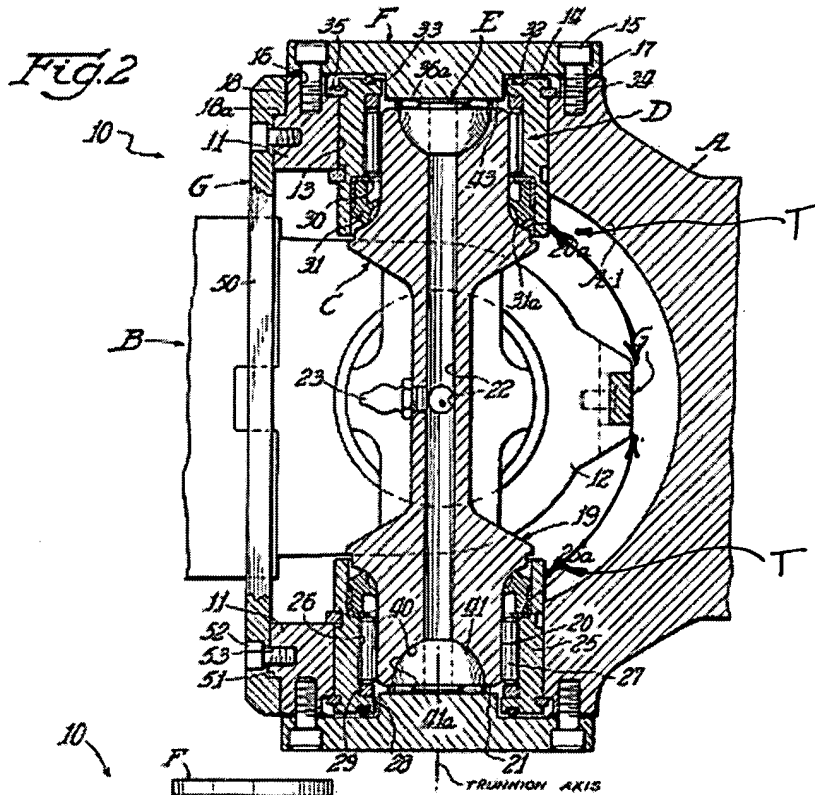
Sept. 7, 1965

R. E. STOKELY
UNIVERSAL JOINT

3,204,428

Filed Aug. 14, 1953

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



Applicants request reconsideration of pending Claims 1, 2 and 4 and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

APRIL 29, 2004

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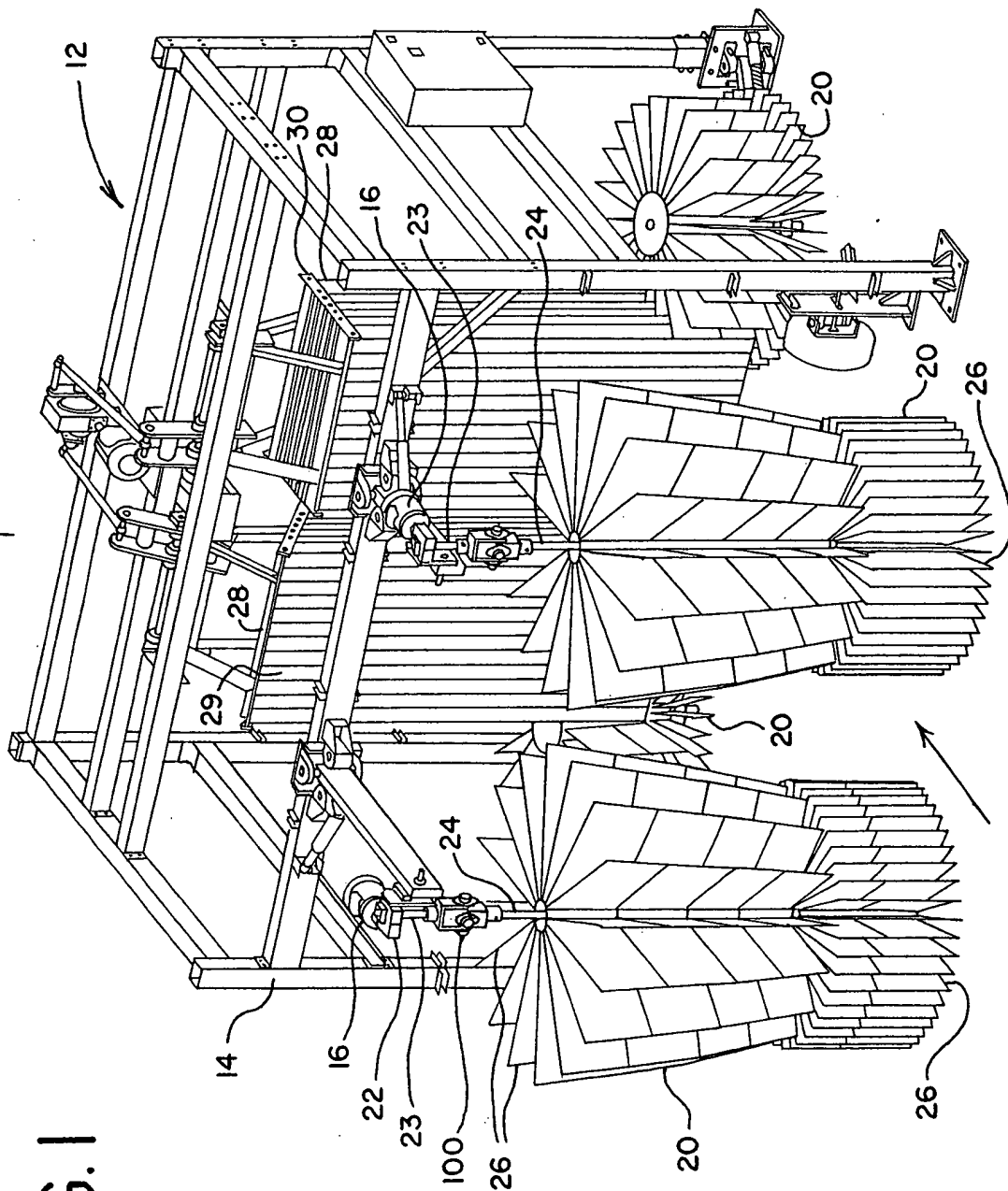
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09/995,101

Proposed Drawing Corrections

FIG. 1



Proposed Drawing Corrections

FIG.2

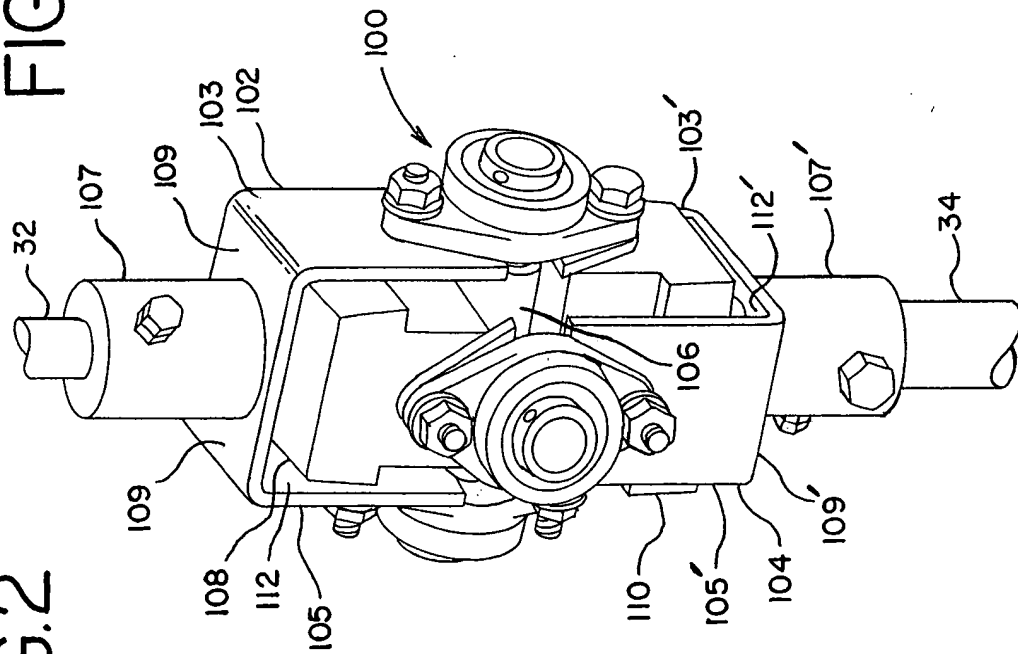
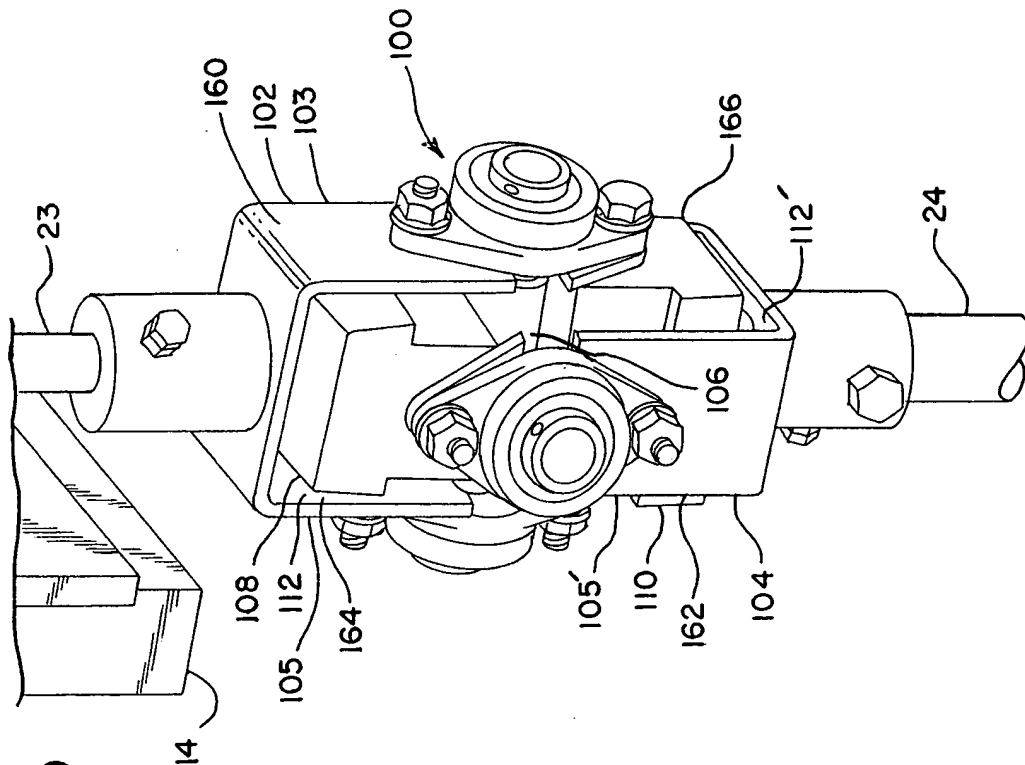


FIG.3





Proposed Drawing Changes

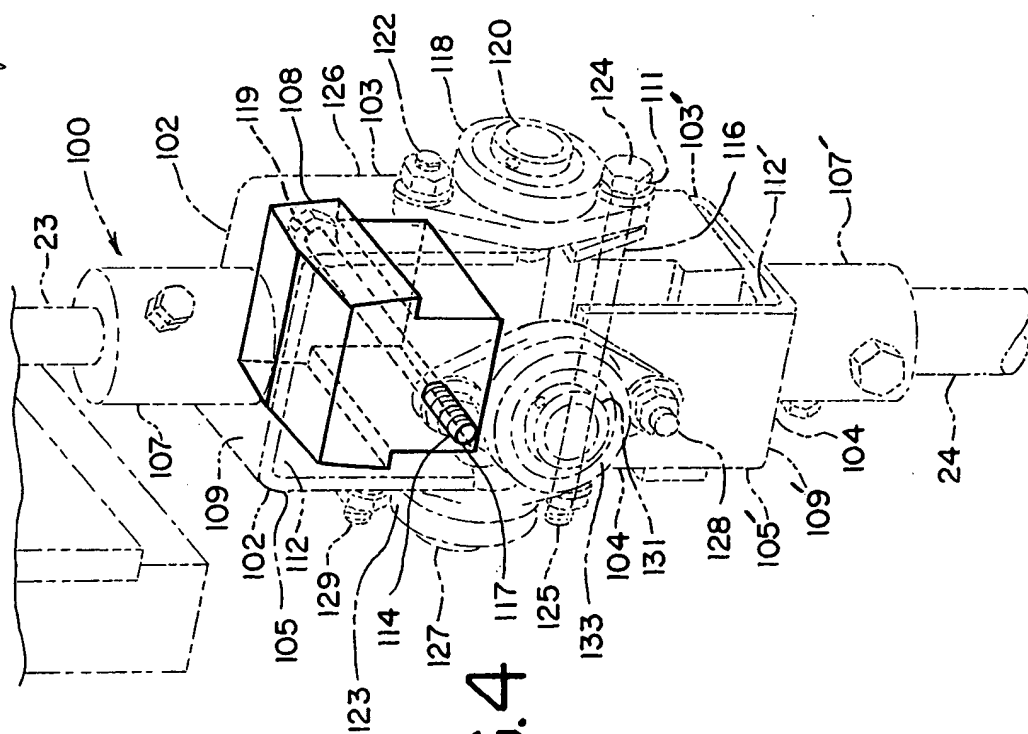
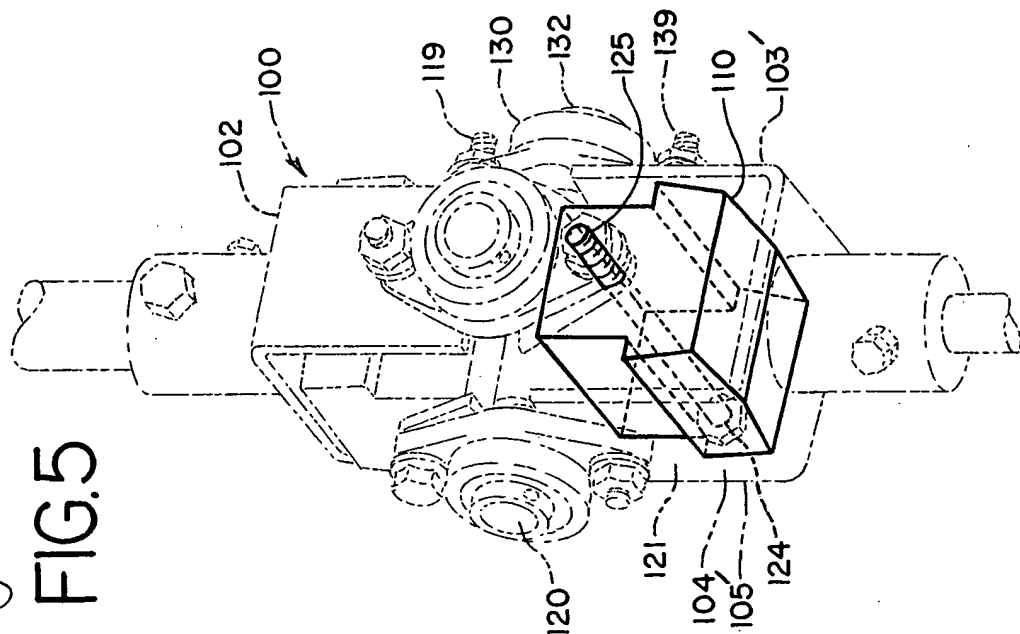


FIG. 4

FIG. 5



Proposed Drawing Changes

FIG.7

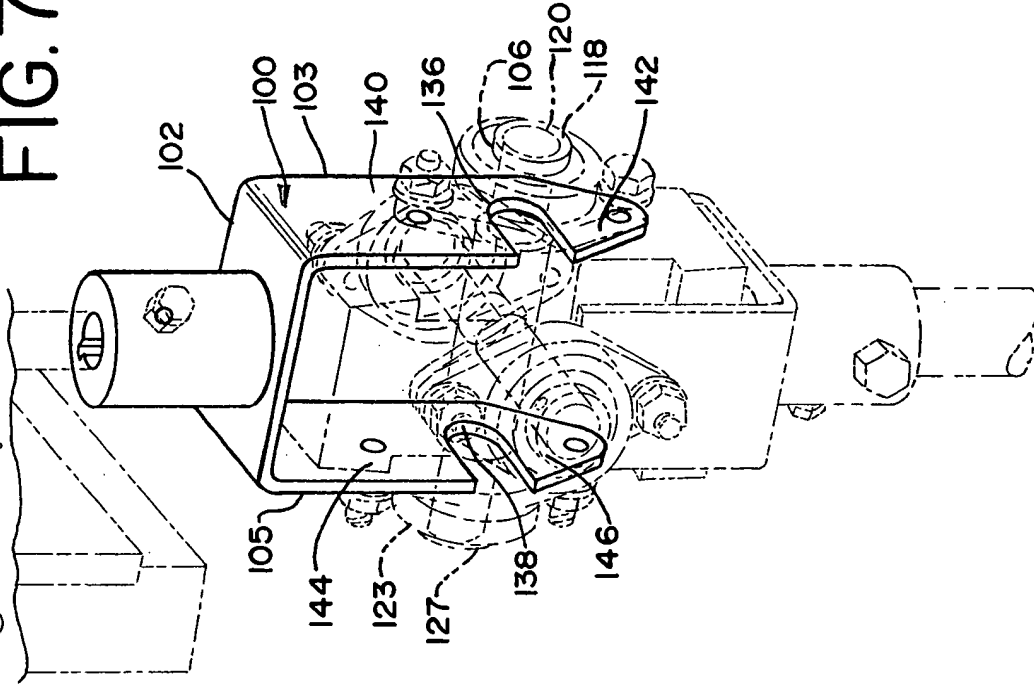
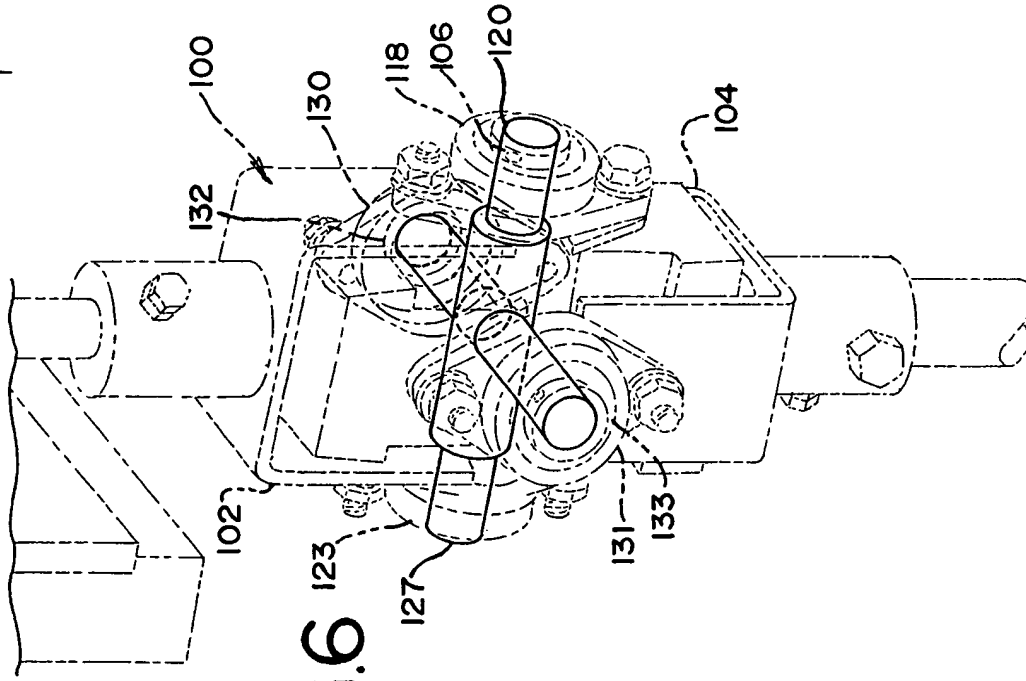
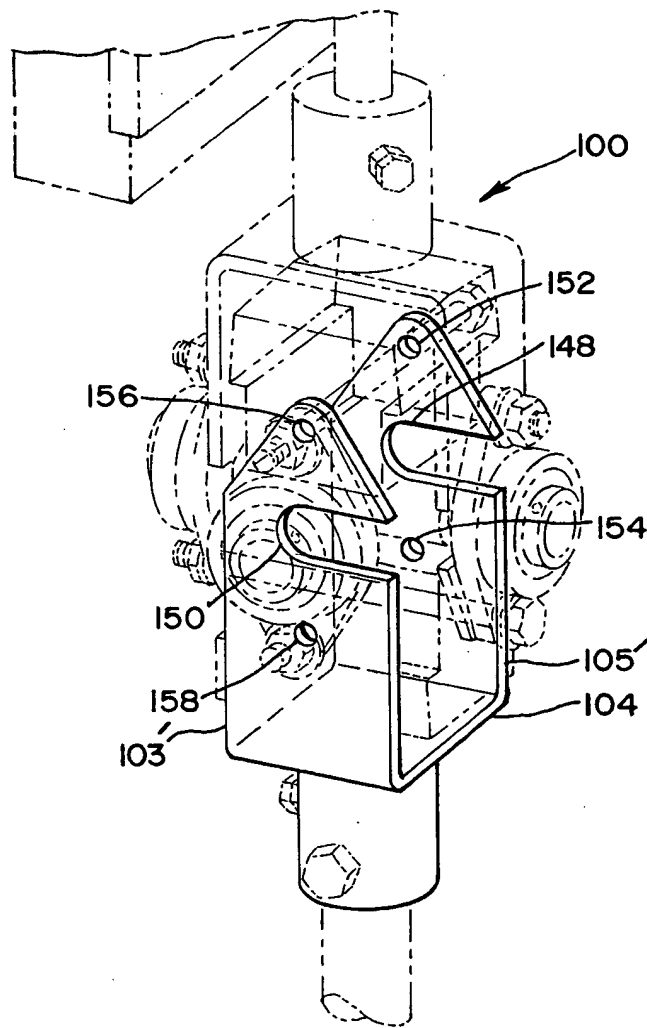


FIG.6





Proposed Drawing Changes
FIG.8



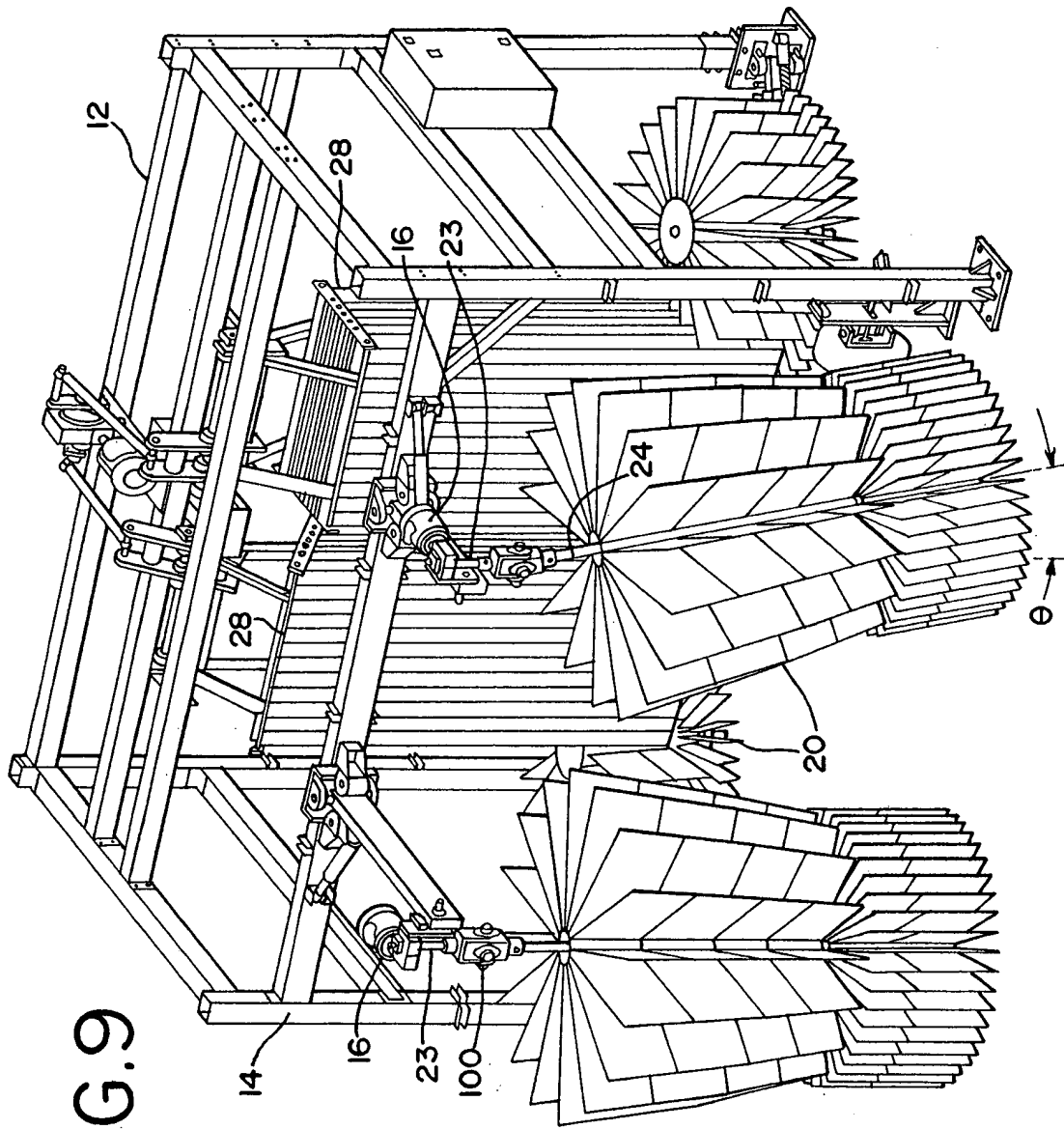




FIG.10

